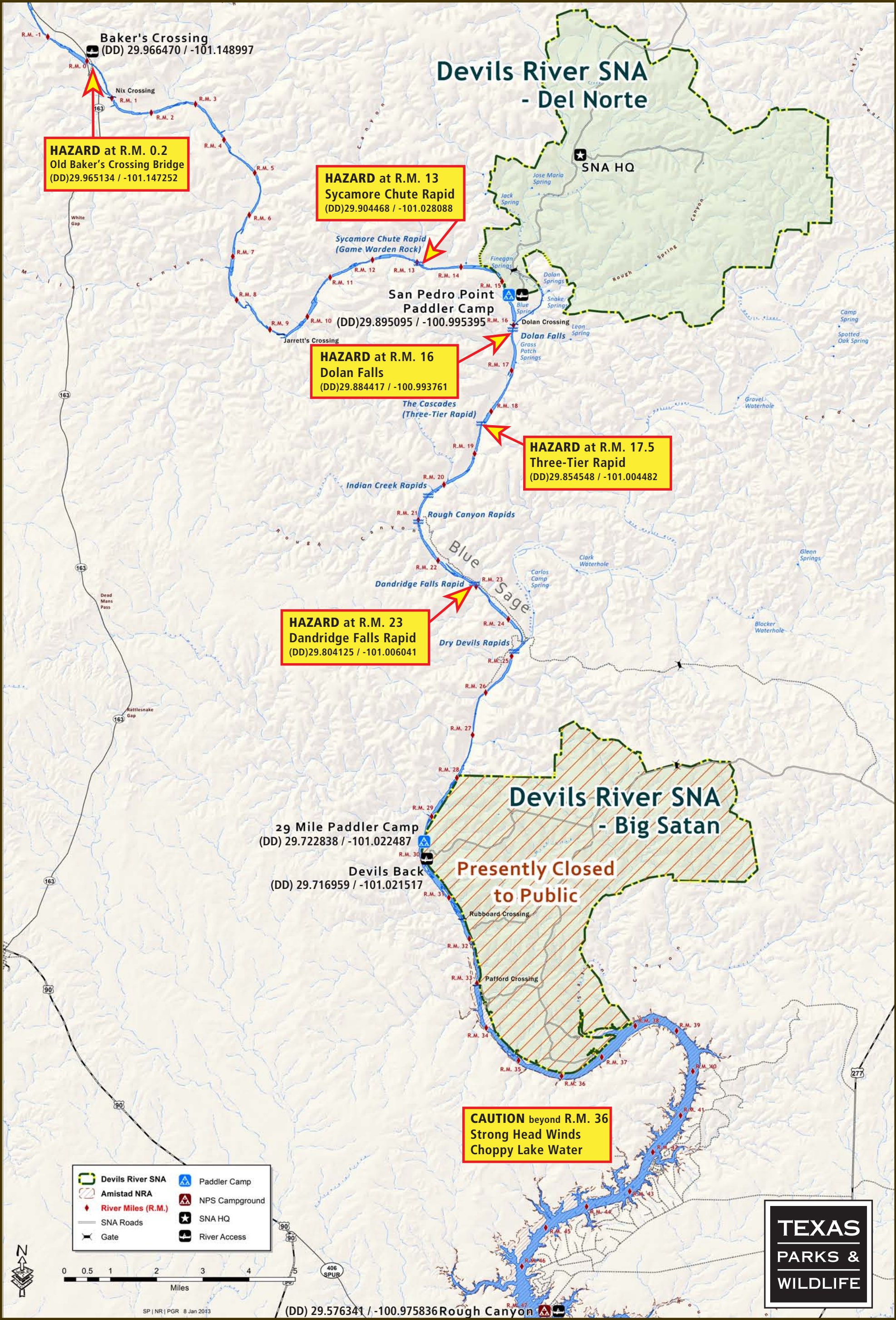


Paddler Map

Devils River

STATE NATURAL AREA



Critical Paddler Information

Things You Should Know Before Paddling the Devils River:

Despite the beautiful setting, a trip down any stretch of the Devils River from SH 163 at Baker's Crossing to the Rough Canyon Marina at Lake Amistad can be difficult and challenging to plan, exhausting to navigate, and life-threatening if not prepared, even for the most seasoned paddlers. It is critical for paddlers to plan and prepare well in advance for a physically demanding, remote river trip, and to make arrangements for take-out with a private outfitter or private property owner if needed.

Designated public camping is presently allowed at Baker’s Crossing, San Pedro Point – Del Norte (river mile 15), at 29 Mile Paddler Camp – Big Satan; and at Amistad National Recreation Area. Camping on islands within the river, while legal, can be extremely dangerous if the river rises. Other camping along the river bank above the gradient boundary will be considered trespassing if the user doesn't have permission from the private landowner.

- Do not attempt to paddle the Devils River unless you are an experienced paddler in good physical condition with wilderness paddling experience; are well prepared; and fully understand the river challenges, hazards, and river-use etiquette.
- All property adjacent to the river, except for Baker’s Crossing Paddler Access, both units of Devils River SNA, and Amistad Nat’l Recreation Area, is private property. Camping or traveling on private property without permission is trespass. It is not uncommon for private land owners to file "trespass" charges against trespassers.
- The Devils River can flash-flood from rains that fall from over 50 miles away or on tributaries ... and can become dangerous and life threatening, VERY QUICKLY.
- Camping on islands can be extremely dangerous if flash-flooding occurs.
- While the river water clarity and quality is excellent, take proper water treatment precautions before drinking.
- Carry abundant DRINKING WATER OR WATER TREATMENT CAPABILITY. MAINTAIN GOOD HYDRATION!
- Searing summer temperatures can cause severe sunburn, dehydration and heat exhaustion. Bright sun, reflection and exposure can cause severe sunburn. (Sunburn is the leading reason why paddlers interrupt their trips to seek help.)
- Strong headwinds are common and can be challenging even to the fit and experienced paddler.
- In the winter, cold fronts can cause temperatures to drop 40-plus degrees in minutes!
- Venomous snakes are common along the river.
- There are many dangerous obstacles in the river. Check the map for the location of some river hazards.
- Wear tough, closed-toe water shoes. Aqua socks or open sandals are not adequate.
- Carry a first-aid kit that contains items to treat serious wounds in an isolated water environment.
- **Secure all gear within your craft so that WHEN your canoe or kayak is upside down in the river nothing will float away.**
- Cell phones don’t work in the Devils River corridor. For safety, carry satellite communications ... BUT BE PREPARED FOR A LONG WAIT!!
- If you are doing a one-day trip, plan at least for overnight, with food/water/emergency ration supply for an extra day or two.
- Long pants that cover your ankles and long sleeve shirts and wide-brimmed hats are highly recommended to provide sun protection.
- In case of emergency while on the river, contact the Val Verde County Sheriff’s Office: (830) 774-7513.

River Etiquette:

- Human waste is a serious problem and a serious health hazard to the river. A WAG Bag (Waste Alleviation and Gelling Bag) should be carried and used. There are many types of commercial WAG Bags available.
- Pick up litter, even if it is not yours.
- If camping at the state natural area, a permit is required.
- Carry heavy-duty bags/containers for trash. Stow your trash bag inside your vessel so that it will not get ripped, snagged, or cut, causing you to lose your trash into the river. Plastic bags alone do not make adequate trash bags.
- No glass; please respect the river. Broken glass is a forever hazard and impact.
- Noise travels a long way on water. Please respect private landowners and other paddlers who don’t want to hear you travel down the river or at your camp.
- Be prepared to take care of yourself and do not become someone else’s problem. Rescue could be days away!
- **RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY – DO NOT TRESPASS!**
- Secure food items and trash from critters at night. Raccoons are common and can get into many receptacles.

Recommended gear list, in addition to your usual camp gear and food (While this list is not intended to be a comprehensive list of needed items, the following items should be included):

1. Portable toilet/WAG bag for human waste
2. River map showing mileage
3. Insect repellant - depending on time of the year, consider mosquito netting
4. Sunscreen and protective clothing from the sun
5. Broad-brimmed hat
6. Sunglasses (might consider taking two pairs)
7. Rope/line - at least 20 feet for dragging kayak/canoe, plus rope/straps/line to secure items in vessel
8. Life jacket / PFD (personal flotation device)
9. Food and water
10. Water purification capability
11. Watertight / heavy-duty bags (dry bags) for gear and trash
12. Pocket knife
13. Bail bucket/sponge (you will get a lot of water in your craft)
14. Duct tape (don’t leave home without it!)
15. At least two headlamps or flashlights
16. One extra paddle per two boats

For more information about how to plan your river trip, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/devils-river/river-trips
For general park information, call (512) 389-8901.

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